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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 31 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that at 4.30 p.m. on 24 July 1996 a United States warplane dropped a heat flare on the Nasiriyah consolidated reservoir project in the Bad'ah area, which is in the Shatrah district of Dhi Qar Governorate in southern Iraq. The project supplies water to the local population.

My Government condemns this unwarranted and barbaric act committed by United States warplanes against civilian installations of a humanitarian character serving the civilian population of southern Iraq. It urges you to intervene with the Government of the United States of America with a view to halting and preventing any repetition of hostile acts in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law that are being committed by a State that is a permanent member of the Security Council against another Member State of the United Nations whose sovereignty, security and territorial integrity are thereby threatened and whose civilian population is thereby left in a state of alarm.

I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for the material and other damage caused by such acts of aggression to its civilian installations and to its citizens, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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96-19432 (E) 010896 010896 020896